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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
BENTLEY-with-ARKSEY

Twenty-Third
ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for 1947

by

J. T. BRIGGS

M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

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BENTLEY-with-ARKSEY

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SANITARY INSPECTOR, 1947

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Bentley,
Near Doncaster,
25th May, 1948.

To the CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report for the year 1947 for your consideration.

The year has been a very heavy one for the Health Department because of the very extensive flooding which occurred, details of which will be found in the report. For this reason routine work has been left in abeyance so that emergency and essential work could be attended to.

All this work could not have been done without the help received from Adwick-le-Street U.D.C., and members of the West Riding County Sanitary Inspectors staff to whom I must tender my appreciation and thanks. I must also express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council, Dr. Ferguson, and members and past members of the staff, for their valuable support during the year.

Yours faithfully,

J. T. BRIGGS,

Sanitary Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health.

J. FERGUSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary, Housing and Petroleum Inspector.

J. T. BRIGGS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector's Certificate	Royal Sanitary
Sanitary Science Certificate	Institute
Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate	do.
Smoke Inspector's Certificate	do.

Assistant.

E. GILLOTT (Left 31/3/47)

L. HAY, M.S.I.A. (commenced 6/8/47).

Certificate S.I.J.B.

Clerks.

L. BARBER (On full-time Course of Training)

J. COWLING (Miss)

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

GENERAL

	Inspections.	Re-Inspections
No. of visits made	7354	1162
„ complaints received	517	
„ complaints confirmed	495	
„ letters in lieu of notices ...	5	
„ verbal notices	201	
„ informal notices	607	
„ statutory notices	202	
„ letters and notices outstanding		
31/12/47	100	
„ Matters referred to Surveyor	42	

SUMMARY OF VISITS.

Meat Pool Centre	6	
Slaughterhouses	44	
Meat and Food Inspections	174	
Accumulations	4	
Animals and Poultry	1	
Basements re flooding	1	
Bakehouses	9	
Closets - Water	51	64
Closets - Pail	3	
Complaints investigated	517	
Complaints confirmed	495	
Coal Gas	19	
Cowsheds	32	
Dairies	58	
Drains	133	17
Dustbins	404	609
Factories	12	
Fish Friers	14	
Food preparing places	47	
Food Shops and Stores	90	
Flooding		
Flood Area	120	
School Billets	199	
Property repairs in progress	1588	
Houses re defects	1296	
Miscellaneous	546	
Housing re Scarlet Fever	34	
„ Diphtheria	2	
„ Poliomyelitis	5	
„ Tuberculosis	16	
„ Capacity	289	
„ Overcrowding	39	
„ Dirty conditions	3	
„ Bugs	13	5
„ other Vermin	2	

	Inspections.	Re-Inspections
Hostel Miners'	14	
Housing Act	14	9
Ice Cream Premises	6	
Interviews	96	
Knackers Yards	18	
Moveable Dwellings	29	
Moveable Dwelling Sites	7	
Nuisances Noted	5	
Offensive Trades	18	
Petroleum	2	
Prospective Council Tenants	80	
Rats and Mice	71	
Structures - dangerous	2	
Sampling :		
Ice Cream - Bacterial Test	16	
Milk - Bacterial Test	106	
Milk - National Scheme	12	
Water - Bacterial Test	14	
Water - Chemical Test	8	
Sanitary Inspections	311	447
Sewage Works	3	
Sewers	8	
Shops Act	45	
Special Visits	182	
Street Gullies and Channels	6	
Urinals	2	
Vacated Council Houses	5	
Yards	8	11

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

HOUSES — INTERNAL	Normal	Flood
Coppers renewed	8	-
Coppers refixed	-	61
Copper furnaces renewed	2	-
Cold water tanks renewed	1	-
Doors repaired or renewed	19	590
Door fasteners renewed	17	480
Cupboards repaired	-	106
Skirting boards refixed	-	19
Fireplaces :		
Repaired	11	138
Renewed	1	41
Ovens renewed	14	-
Firebacks repaired	5	-
Firebars renewed	2	-
Smokey flues cured	1	-
Hearths retiled	-	71
Handrails refixed	1	—
Floors repaired or renewed	20	166
Gas pipes repaired	3	—
Hot water cylinders renewed	1	—
Plasterwork repaired	20	168

	Normal	Flood
Sinks re-newed	2	—
Sinks re-set	2	9
Sink waste pipes renewed	7	—
Baths renewed	2	—
Water pipes repaired	6	—
Water taps renewed	1	—
Wash basins renewed	1	—
Electric wiring and fittings renewed ...	—	5
EXTERNAL		
Chimney Pots	6	—
Chimneys repaired	3	—
Damp walls cured	19	—
Eaves spouts repaired	29	—
Eaves spouts renewed	11	—
Lead flashings renewed	6	—
House walls repaired	11	146
Walls rebuilt	—	179
Rain water pipes renewed	27	2
Roofs repaired	39	—
Bay window roofs repaired	16	—
Windows repaired	12	189
Window glass renewed	—	135
Sash cords renewed	96	—
Fasteners renewed	2	51
Yards repaved	8	36
Coalplace doors repaired	2	62
Verminous houses cleansed	7	—
Dustbins renewed	645	10
Gates repaired and renewed	—	67
Roads repaired	—	1
Steps refixed	—	9
CLOSETS		
Basins renewed	14	16
Seats renewed	18	20
Cisterns repaired	10	—
Cisterns renewed	7	—
Flush pipes renewed	2	—
Water pipes repaired	8	—
Roofs repaired	6	—
Spouts repaired	1	—
Floors repaired	2	4
Doors and frames repaired	2	62
Walls repaired	1	7
Pails renewed	3	—
Rebuilt	—	3
DRAINS		
Cleansed	158	250
Reconstructed	8	—
Soil pipes renewed	3	—
Inspection chambers repaired	4	2
Inspection chamber covers renewed ...	6	1

					Normal	Flood
COWSHEDS						
Walls limewashed	...	...	...	...	20	
Floors cleansed	...	...	...	...	10	
SHOPS ACT						
Radiators provided	...	...	...	...	1	—
Fireplace provided	...	...	...	...	1	—
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	1	—
GENERAL						
Accumulations removed			...	...	1	—
Sewers cleansed	...	...	...	...	20	30
Flooded cellar cleansed	...	...	...	...	1	—

WORK CARRIED OUT ON DEFAULT OF OWNERS.

The following works have been carried out by the local authority under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Section 75 Renewal of 74 Dustbins.

PROPERTY REPAIRS.

The position regarding materials for essential repairs has shown no improvement since last year and the constant increase in cost was making such work almost prohibitive. Licences were granted for this work and great efforts were made to obtain the material through the Ministries with varying degrees of success. These factors are causing a rapid and continuous deterioration in the condition of house property.

SHOPS ACT.

A survey was attempted but was not satisfactorily completed as flood damage repairs have taken up a great deal of time.

FLOODING.

The unprecedented weather of the early months of the year with continuous frosts and successive heavy falls of snow covering a period of almost two months, followed by a rapid thaw which released such a volume of water that the ordinary drainage channels such as streams and rivers could not possibly cope with it, caused general flooding. The floods in Bentley occurred in three phases:-

1. The drainage of water from adjoining areas into Toll Bar for a few days from the 14th March, to the depth of 2-3 feet. and also along the North Road.

2. The operation of the Newton spillway on the 18th March, and flooding of Sprotborough Lane, Bentley Road and Yarborough Terrace areas.
3. The overflowing and bursting of the barrier bank on the 20th March, and flooding of Almholme, Arksey and Toll Bar areas, to a great depth.

The first emergency operation was the housing of the dispossessed people in the New Village Schools which were soon filled to capacity, the peak figure being 650. In order to provide some measure of comfort for them, beds, bedding, chairs and tables, were provided from Ministry stores; emergency cooking and feeding arrangements were installed, one room was set apart for the non-infectious sick, and infectious and serious cases of illness were moved to hospital immediately.

Supervision of the cleaning of rooms and passages, constant inspection and cleansing of the sanitary accommodation, and a daily service of refuse removal were instituted at once and were maintained throughout the occupation.

Upon the recession of the waters in the Bentley Road area and Arksey, and after the clearance of Toll Bar by pumping, which takes from 15 to 20 days to accomplish, all possible labour was engaged in cleaning up the appalling mess left by the flood; roads, streets, sewers, drains and water closets, were cleared of obstructions and cleansed and disinfected, the people were encouraged to swill out and clean their houses whilst still wet to minimise the work and energy required if left to dry in a dirty condition. For this purpose soap, disinfectant, limewash and wall distempers, were distributed and proved helpful in making the houses decent.

Owing to the rapid rise of the water 18,964 lbs. of foodstuffs were totally ruined and had to be destroyed.

For the benefit of the people affected by the flood the following arrangements were made:—

Board of Trade

Supply of forms for replacement of furniture, floor coverings and furnishings.

Supply of domestic articles to local shops, e.g. candles, gas mantles, floor cloths, scrubbing brushes, paraffin, etc.

Customs and Excise

Supply of forms for replacement of lost clothing.

Fuel Office.

Details of affected areas for provision of extra fuel.

Food Office

For replacing lost ration books and arranging temporary registrations.

Women's Voluntary Service

Many of the gifts which came from all parts of this Country and the Empire were received through the Don Valley Area Organiser and distributed by the Local Centre Organiser and other members of the Service.

These gifts included 16,000 tins of food, parcels of clothing, furniture, household equipment, wall and ceiling distempers, and paint. The foodstuffs and a gift of money were sent to this area by the Lord Mayor of Leeds to whom the affected people and the Council were deeply grateful.

PROPERTY REPAIRS

As soon as possible after the flooding a survey of the damage to houses was made by Inspectors of the County Health Staff and records entered into a card file to be used as a check upon repair work.

The owners could not possibly face such repair bills but by the kindness of the Lord Mayor of London, £20,000 was allocated to the Council for repair work and owners were urged to commence this work immediately. There was some delay caused by the need for licences and shortage of materials, but this was gradually overcome by contacting the Ministries concerned and by the end of the year 323 houses were repaired and work was in hand for almost the whole of the remainder. The list of works carried out is given in the earlier part of this report and the cost for the year was £7,225/5/3.

Particulars of the floods which have occurred in Bentley since 1931 are given overleaf.



Particulars of Bentley Floods 1931 to 1947.

Details	1931	1932	1933	1941	1947
Period of Flood Area Flooded (approx.) No. of houses flooded Greatest depth of water Greatest depth in streets Greatest depth in houses No. of days lowest area was flooded	September 7th—26th 3,000 acres 570 8 ft. 4 ft.—5 ft. 5 ft. 20	May 22nd to June 22nd 4,100 acres 1,183 10 ft. 6 ins. 7 ft. 7 ft. 32	March 5th—30th 3,300 acres 634 8 ft. 6 ins. 4 ft 6 ins. 5 ft. 27	February 9th to April 7th 3,600 acres 747 8 ft. 6 ins. 5 ft. 6 ft. 54	March 14th to April 26th 3,500 acres 824 10 ft. 8 ft. 7 ft. 8 ins. 44

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY

Eight samples of water were taken for chemical analysis and were found to be satisfactory, but five were of doubtful organic purity. Fourteen samples were taken for bacterial testing and three were found to be not satisfactory and these were three of the five mentioned above. No houses were connected to the public supply during the year as none was within reasonable distance. Seven houses now receive drinking water in churns by road. There are now one farm and seven houses on shallow wells and four farms on deep wells.

PRIVIES AND PAIL CLOSETS.

All properties within reach of the sewer are now connected. There are twelve privies and twenty-three pail closets remaining.

CLEANSING OF DRAINS.

The arrangements made in 1942 for cleansing drains still continue and are working satisfactorily and such nuisances are rapidly abated.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Bugs—Seven houses were treated for bugs, four were Council houses and three were privately owned.

Ants—Seven houses were treated.

Blackclocks—Two houses were treated.

Gammexane and D.D.T. have been in general use in cases of vermin infestation with the usual effectiveness, and liquid D.D.T. has been used with excellent results in food preparing places, slaughterhouses, and cowsheds.

RODENT CONTROL.

This work has again been carried out on the lines of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries methods with good results, premises and sites being cleared completely and the following details summarize the work done :-

No. of premises treated	32
No. of baiting points	404
No. of baits—unpoisoned	1964
No. of baits—poisoned	404
No. of dead rats found	515

Estimated kill—Ministry of Agriculture &
Fisheries formula 1740

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

No observations were taken during the year.

BURNING COLLIERY TIP.

The refuse heap to the one colliery in the district still causes a nuisance from smoke and fumes, though there is some improvement, but some form of treatment more efficient than water spraying—which has a tendency to form drainage channels—is needed to combat the fire and reduce the discomfort of the people in the direction of the prevailing wind.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There is no increase in this form of dwelling and there are still five sites which are licensed containing eleven dwellings. Itinerant hawkers use unlicensed sites and country lanes for a few weeks whilst working the area.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Bone Boiler and Blood Drier	...	...	1
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There was no new application for consent to the establishment of an offensive trade during the year.

PETROLEUM.

Twenty-six licenses were issued for the storage of petroleum in bulk.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

DAIRYMEN, COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Retailers taken off the register	...	...	...	—
Retailers entered on the register ^a	...	...	...	1
Retailers of bottled milk - sterilised	...	...	...	22
Retailers on register 31st December, 1947	...	...	...	43
Wholesalers	„	„	„	21
Producers	„	„	„	17
Cowsheds	„	„	„	31
Registered Premises	„	„	„	22

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1936 - 1946.

Supplementary licences were issued for sale of the following types of milk :—

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	2

One producer of Tuberculin Tested Milk retails in the area.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are four slaughterhouses and one knackers yard licensed for use. Private slaughtering ceased after January 1941, when war-time control of slaughtering was centralised at public abattoirs, only 105 pigs were dressed for private consumption.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, have been properly observed with regard to notices.

Special notices from slaughterhouses	...	43
Special notices from other premises	...	32

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Humane slaughtering of all animals in accordance with the Act is in force throughout the district.

No. of slaughtermen's licences issued	...	17
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SUPERVISION OF THE FOOD SUPPLY.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Under the West Riding County Council's scheme your Sanitary Inspector carries out the sampling of milk in this area. Owing to pressure of work caused by the floods this was not possible during the year.

FOOD PREPARING PREMISES (registered under Section 14).

Preparation or storage of ice cream	...	6
Preparation or manufacture of sausages, potted, pressed, pickled or preserved foods		15
Fish Friers		14

All premises were kept in a reasonable state of cleanliness.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS.

Visits to slaughterhouses	...	44
No. of animals slaughtered	...	105
Inspections of meat and food	...	174
No. of condemnations	...	99

CONDEMNATIONS OF FOODSTUFFS.

	Flood	Ordinary
Jams, 265 jars	230 lbs.	35 lbs.
Fruit, 6 tins	—	12 lbs.
Fruit—dried	1794 lbs.	—
Oranges	—	140 lbs.
Pickles, 104 jars	101 lbs.	3 lbs.
Sauces, salads, 37 bottles	7 lbs.	9 lbs.

	Flood	Ordinary
Vinegar	360 lbs.	—
Pepper, salt, mustard	156 lbs.	—
Meat, 104 tins	—	347½ lbs.
Beef	—	373 lbs.
Suet	10½ lbs.	—
Bacon and Hams	234½ lbs.	52¾ lbs.
Ox liver	160 lbs.	—
Fish, 2 tins	—	1½ lbs.
Fish	—	42 lbs.
Vegetables, 853 tins	848 lbs.	3½ lbs.
Vegetables—loose	1456 lbs.	—
Vegetables—dried	467 lbs.	—
Potato crisps	37 lbs.	—
Milk, 36 tins	10½ lbs.	21 lbs.
Milk—dried	56 lbs.	—
Cheese	37 lbs.	64½ lbs.
Butter	—	215½ lbs.
Margarine	48 lbs.	—
Dinners, 12 tins	—	12 lbs.
Sausage	—	9 lbs.
Puddings and pudding mixtures	252 lbs.	—
Flour	352½ lbs.	—
Semolina	469 lbs.	—
Baking powder	35 lbs.	—
Bi-carbonate soda	192 lbs.	—
Macaroni	4550 lbs.	—
Rolled oats, etc.	3742 lbs.	—
Cake mixtures	214½ lbs.	—
Cakes—assorted	1206¼ lbs.	—
Biscuits	822 lbs.	—
Sweets	177½ lbs.	—
Jellies (16)	4 lbs.	—
Patent foods, 6 tins	4½ lbs.	—
Sugar	294 lbs.	—
Eggs—dried	61½ lbs.	—
Eggs (368)	9 lbs.	37 lbs.
Custard powder	42¾ lbs.	—
Tea	36 lbs.	—
Coffee	323 lbs.	—
Cocoa	56 lbs.	—
Herbs, spices and stuffing ...	28½ lbs.	—
Health salts	7 lbs.	—
Soup powders and gravy flavouring	13½ lbs.	—
Ground ginger	48 lbs.	—
Ground almonds	7 lbs.	—
Gelatine	4 lbs.	—
Pigs lungs	—	9 lbs.
Pigs fats	—	6 lbs.
Pigs heads	—	24 lbs.
	18,964 lbs.	1,417¼ lbs.

ICE CREAM.

The production and sale of ice cream has received attention and sixteen samples were taken during the year for bacterial test and the details are given below. The manufacturers in the district continue to obtain good results but they have not been able to procure the latest types of machinery in any thing like sufficient quantities.

Report on Ice Cream Samples.

No. of Samples	B. Coli.		Methylene Blue Test Grade	Remarks
	Dilution	No. of Tubes Positive		
3	1 in 10	3	3	Nine of the samples were in Grade 1, free from B. Coli and quite satisfactory Where B. Coli was present it was of non-faecal origin.
4	1 in 10	2	3	
7 & 8	Not applied		3	
1, 2 & 5	1 in 10	Nil	2	
6 & 9-16 inclusive	1 in 10	Nil	1	

MILK.

Samples for Bacterial Test.

Type	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Ordinary Milk ...	59	33	26
Graded Milk	37	31	6
Bottled, Sterilised ...	10	9	1
Total ...	106	73	33

Ordinary Milks.

Time of Decolourisation	Summer Time	Winter Time
Under 1 hour	10	1
Between 1 hour and 2 hours	3	—
" 2 hours and 3 hours	2	—
" 3 hours and 4 hours	1	3
" 4 hours and 5 hours	3	2
" 5 hours and 5½ hours	—	1
Satisfactory	10	23

Graded Milks.

No. of Samples	Type	Methylene Blue Test	Phosphatase Test	Remarks
17	Pasteurised	over 5½ hours	Group 1	Satisfactory
1	"	½ hour	Group 1	Not "
12	Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	over 5½ hours	Group 1	Satisfactory
3	"	½ hour	Group 1	Not "
1	"	½ hour	Group 2	Not "
2	Tuberculin Tested	over 5½ hours	—	Satisfactory
1	"	½ hour	—	Not "

Sterilised Milk.

No. of Samples	Methylene Blue Test	Phosphatase Test	Remarks
9	Over 5½ hours	Group 1	Satisfactory
1	½ hour	Group 2	Unsatisfactory

One sample of ordinary milk was found to be tuberculous and one beast was slaughtered following investigations by the veterinary service.

The number of satisfactory samples showed a fall on the previous year but this may have been caused by the disturbance of herds during and after the flood, for this reason it has not been possible to devote time to the observation of milking processes. There have been no complaints about dirty churns and very few about milk being delivered in dirty bottles.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

1. Cases Notified and Investigated.

Cases notified		41
Cases removed to hospital		40

CLASSIFICATION

Scarlet Fever		34
Diphtheria		2
Poliomyelitis		5

DISTRIBUTION.

Ward	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Polio- myelitis	Totals
Toll Bar	—	—	2	2
New Village	7	—	2	9
Arksey	—	1	—	1
Old Bentley	1	—	—	1
Bentley Road	17	1	1	19
North Road	9	—	—	9
Total	34	2	5	41

2. TUBERCULOSIS

New notifications	...	...	...	...	...	26
No. on register 31st December, 1947 :-						
Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	107
Non-pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	57

3. DISINFECTIONS

Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
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HOUSING.

HOUSING ACT, 1936 - OVERCROWDING.

Twenty-two complaints of overcrowding were received but only three were confirmed.

HOUSING ACTS 1925-1936 - CLEARANCE AREAS.

Of the clearance areas put in hand in 1937, two houses remain and one is still occupied. No further work has been done in this respect since the war commenced.

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

All houses declared to be unfit have been demolished and the sites cleared.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

No routine inspection of dwelling houses has been carried out, but all complaints have received immediate attention.

SQUATTERS

The trainee miners' hostel was occupied by Squatters until the end of the year. A case for possession was taken to the County Court when an order was made in favour of the Ministry of Works. The reduction in the number of occupants was a gradual process and the hostel was cleared during December.



